



Abductions Investigations *A Deepening Quagmire*

by Gayle Nesom

Until very recently, UFO abduction investigators were generally ignored by those outside the UFO community. At worst, they were ridiculed. Neither option was pleasant, but neither was particularly hazardous. Today, however, the risks have become much higher. In the July 1993 *Mutual UFO Journal*, * MUFON medical consultant David Gotlib, MD—sensing a growing threat—suggested this chilling scenario:

“During or after an investigation, an abductee suffers an emotional breakdown, perhaps even commits suicide. A member of the family, who is not an experiencer and who is not sympathetic to the idea of abductions as legitimate experiences, feels, rightly or wrongly, that the intervention of the investigator is in some way responsible for the breakdown.

“Such an angry relative might then bring a civil suit against the investigator and others involved in the study of the case, claiming negligence. Negligence involves the violation of what the court might find to be the duty of care owed by the investigator to the experiencer. If the court did find that such a duty of care exists then the following question would be asked: Did the person who owed that duty (the investigator) conduct himself or herself to the standard of care as required of him or her by professional colleagues? If there are no professional colleagues and if no such professional standards exist, then did the investigator show the standards a reasonable person would expect? If the answer to this question is “no,” then the court could find the investigator negligent, and thereby responsible for damages caused by such negligence.

“In this scenario, the specific charge would be that the investigator ought to have known the abductee was subject to great emotional strain because of the experience. Through the investigation, he or she had opened a “Pandora’s box” without knowing how to close it or control it, thus putting the experiencer at risk.”

As the story indicates, experiencers risk “remembering” traumatic experiences—yet investigators face great risk as well. And in just the past two years, much as happened to up the ante.

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“False Memory Syndrome raises legitimate concerns, with serious moral and ethical implications for the field of abductions. The concerns are worthy of study, even if we do not care for the way they are presented.”

—David Gotlib, MD

Recovered Versus False Memories

At the heart of the problem is the recovered memory controversy. Memory theory and memory enhancement—hypnosis, visualization, sodium amytal, dream interpretation, guided imagery, body massages, and relaxation techniques—are not new. In fact, hypnosis has been recognized as a powerful tool in anesthesia, healing, and self-improvement since the time of the Greeks, though it has often faded in and out of vogue.

What has brought controversy to the issue is the premise that people can *totally* suppress memories of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse—and presumably, of satanic rituals, past-lives, and alien abductions—and that under a therapist’s care, they can recover these long-forgotten memories. No one seems to doubt the sincerity of those with the memories, but the issue of how genuine the memories are has sharply divided the mental health community and fueled a raging debate.

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Worth Repeating

*A Digest of Ideas from
Researchers, Enthusiasts,
Bufs, Kooks, Skeptics,
Debunkers, and Others*

The AMA Takes Note

“We do not fully understand yet all the mechanisms of trauma impact on memory, but investigators are beginning to think about applying what is being learned to rigorous, controlled trials, say Charles R. Marmar, MD, professor of psychiatry at the University of California-San Francisco, School of Medicine, and president of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies. For example, there is the prospect of using the physiological changes seen in victims of documented abuse when they confront their memories as markers for veracity.” —Paul Cotton, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, “Medical News & Perspectives” (1725-1726), Jan. 14, 1994

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Deep-Throat

Unsubstantiated-But-Persistent Rumors From the UFO Grapevine

For months, we've heard about alleged film footage from the Roswell incident: British film producer Ray Santilli of Merlin (mmm!) Productions claims to have bought it in the U.S. from the original photographer—76- or 82-year-old Jack Barnett. Several people say they have seen parts of it and believe it to be real—or fake, depending on the source. The segment shows an autopsy—maybe surgery—on an alien. CNN "Headline News," the BBC, and other media outlets are reporting an August broadcast.... **Rumblings** abound that something big, maybe *The Announcement*, is about to happen—or was to have happened in January. Maybe the Americans just want to steal the BBC's thunder—UFO researchers have been arguing over who will be on the "Tell the World" team.... **Rumor** has it the White House has been briefed on current UFO affairs by a well-known UFO researcher—not once but twice! Sources say it was President Clinton or maybe the White House science advisor, Dr. John Gibbons.... **Announcement** talk may have spurred Steven Spielberg to get his Roswell movie out early. It supposedly shows actual military footage of the Roswell crash recovery. Rumored by some to have been set for a 1997 release—Roswell's 50th anniversary—the movie may have been filmed in secret and be ready for a late summer release. Another source says there's no movie at all...

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Spotlight on Bill Eatwell

MUFON member Bill Eatwell is one of the "old timers" in the study of UFOs. A native Houstonian, Bill has researched the phenomenon since the mid-70's, focusing mainly on the UFO's craft's unique designs and its theoretical means of propulsion.

Through his technical research into "circular evidence," the strange earthly remnants of possible UFO landings, he became interested in England's crop circle mystery. A chance inquiry to George Wingfield, one of England's top crop circle investigators and editor of *The Cerealogist*, has led to their friendship and an exclusive supply of information. This information is often shared in his column "Crop Circle Update," which appears occasionally in *HUFON Report*, the newsletter of the Houston UFO Network.

Having had a pilot's license since 1980, Bill applies his understanding of flight to the study of UFOs and has investigated several UFO cases from the air, including the Cash-Landrum case. In March 1981, as a member of Project VISIT, he assisted John Schuessler in the initial investigative work on the case, helping locate witnesses to the mysterious helicopter activity during the incident. He credits John with launching and influencing his "career hobby" in UFOs.

Besides a long-time membership in VISIT, Bill is also a member of HUFON, which he co-founded with Ron Madeley in November 1989. From July 1989 to January 1990, Bill was MUFON's Assistant State Section Director for Harris County.

With an admittedly skeptical philosophy of the UFO phenomenon, Bill maintains that if only a single witness experiences a "CE" (close encounter), then the incident remains an unverifiable story. There must be multiple witnesses to any event for story credibility to exist, period!

Bill has a BS in manufacturing technology and holds five U.S. patents. He is applying his knowledge of manufacturing processes toward developing a theory that the UFO's construction and shape is totally integrated with its propulsion system. His continuing research into this facet of UFO study will be reported on in the *Houston Sky* column "UFO Notebook," which appears for the second time in this issue.

Bill is employed as a contract engineer using advanced computer-aided design technology at a large international oil field service company. Other hobbies include amateur radio (call sign N5PWH) and firearms. ♦

◆ Flash Back

Corpus Christ, Texas—1980

I was out jogging at 0333, when I saw a flash of white light to my left. Looking up, I observed three identically shaped flying objects heading approximately east, north-east.

Each object was shaped roughly like an ice cream cone on its side, with the ice cream on the forward end. The round part was about the size of a half dollar held at arm's length and was extremely bright. The cone section was about two diameters of the round part. The two objects were separated by about the distance of one diameter of one of the round parts.

I estimated the speed to be 600 to 750 mph. As I watched, each unit went to "black," about three seconds apart, starting with the last unit in line. I was unable to judge whether I was seeing three separate devices or one large object.

—Charles Woolford, Webster, Texas

Newspaper Account

Three UFOs: Fiery Balls Drag-race Across Sky

—by Jay Jorden, Staff Writer
Corpus Christi Caller-Times, June 11, 1980

They weren't birds; they were faster than planes and they lit up the darkened sky early this morning. The three fiery balls that startled police and sheriff's officers as they went about

their nightly rounds in Corpus Christi and Robstown were spotted as far north as San Antonio. Yet federal officials could confirm neither meteor shower nor other natural phenomenon to account for the sightings.

Six Nueces County Sheriff's deputies saw the three lights, described as meteorlike bodies, about 3:30 AM.

"Everyone on the night shift saw it," Guy Genovese of the Sheriff's Office said. Two city police officers saw the lights. One officer described them as "the weirdest thing I ever saw." The lights could have been aircraft flying at high altitude, or lights on a commercial aircraft, Bill Szervinske, San Antonio air traffic coordinator, said. But his office received no information for its logs on the sightings.

Weathermen received no information by teletype on the nature of the lights, Bill Hare, meteorologist in charge at the national Weather Service here, said. Bill Stewart, coordinator for air traffic control at Corpus Christi International Airport, said nothing unusual was reported from his night shift.

"We were stopped on the freeway to see what it was," a city police officer said, "and I said to my partner, 'I don't believe this.'" ♦

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At one extreme of the debate is the False Memory Syndrome Foundation (FMSF), which coined the term "false memory syndrome" in 1992, when the group was established. FMSF members—mental health professionals, families accused of abuse, former accusers who have "retracted" their memories, and others—maintain that "while some reports of incest and sexual abuse are surely true, these decade-delayed memories are too often the result of false memory syndrome caused by a disastrous 'therapeutic' program" ["FMS Foundation" brochure, 10/94]. From their perspective that recovered memories are generally false memories, the FMSF has denounced therapy for "remembered past lives, *space alien abuse*, satanic ritual conspiracies, and after-death experiences," claiming that "mainstream professionals view these things as 'evidence that the disease of the month is alive and well,' and calling them 'splinter notions, nontraditional practices so silly that they do not dignify a response'" [MUFON J, 7/93, 13].

At the debate's other extreme are the recovered memory proponents, inspired by books such as *The Courage to Heal* and credited with encouraging the belief that "if you think you may have been sexually abused as a child, then you probably were."

Ranging along the spectrum are professional organizations, agencies, and individuals who for one reason or another have taken a stand.

Where is the truth of the matter? Scientific studies are finding that "memories" can be invented and believed with conviction and that they can also be suppressed until much later. Before such a complex issue can be understood, much more research is needed, according to Charles Marmar, MD, professor of psychiatry at the University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine, who said, "There will be no 'true test' of whether memories are true or false 'until we have really much more sophisticated biological measures'" [JAMA, 12/13/94, 1725].

Meanwhile, as theory and emotions reactions are gradually being supplemented by clinical findings, the positions of both camps are beginning to shift.

Even the American Medical Association has taken a closer look, says a AMA writer Paul Cotton: "There is now wide acknowledgment that false memories can develop and be brought out or even created during therapy. There is also a growing body of evidence from more than a dozen prospective studies that memory impairment is common during or because of traumas ranging from earthquakes to rape. And studies are documenting down to

the molecular level how memory can be impaired by trauma" [JAMA, 12/14/94, 1725].

Such neurological studies of the biochemistry of memory formation, correlations of involuntary responses (increases in heart rate and temperature) with trauma recall, and the influence of stress on memory are bringing a clearer understanding. For example, Dr. Robert Sapolsky, associate professor of neuroscience at Stanford University Medical School in Palo Alto, Cal., reported that the "chronic severe stress that occurs with long-term abuse seems particularly able to impair activity in the hippo-campal region [of the brain], thought to be critical in learning and memory" [JAMA, 12/14/94, 1725].

The American Psychological Association is another group keeping tabs on the debate. In an interim report issued in June 1994, the APA's "Working Group on the Investigation of Memories of Childhood Abuse" concluded that most people sexually abused as children remember all or part of what happened to them, that it is possible for long-forgotten memories of abuse to be remembered, and that how "delayed recall" occurs is not well understood. It also stated that convincing pseudomemories for events that never occurred can be constructed, and the way these pseudomemories happen is also not known. And finally, the report stated that "there are gaps in our knowledge about the processes that lead to accurate and inaccurate recollections of childhood abuse" [APA news release, 3/31/95].

Within the recovered memory debate reside numerous other controversies. One is the effect of hypnosis on memories. Writing in the Vanderbilt Law Review's publication *Hypnotic Memories and Civil Sexual Abuse Trials* [10/92, 1195], University of Louisville law professor Jacqueline Kanovitz reported that hypnosis scientists, who base their conclusion on experiments conducted in memory laboratories, have for a long time maintained that hypnosis is a dangerous technique that makes memory unsafe for courtroom testimony. Clinicians, on the other hand—the psychiatrists and psychologists who hear their patients' traumatic stories and compare these stories with their psychological symptoms and waking behaviors—generally believe that the memories are fairly accurate.

MUFON's Director of Abduction Research John Carpenter, MS, suggesting the validity of hypnotic memories, reported studies by the Los Angeles Police Department of more than 500 traumatic crime cases in which "the verifiable data retrieved from hypnosis sessions were determined to be accurate 90 percent of the time—better than that of witness with conscious recall" [MUFON J, 11/94, 18].

Other much debated issues include where the stories come from if they are not based on fact,

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Worth Repeating

Academics Attack Mack

"To communicate in any way whatsoever to a person who has reported a close encounter with an Extraterrestrial life form that this experience might well have been 'real,' the Harvard Faculty Committee finds, is professionally irresponsible on the part of any academic, scientific, or professional person... Such conduct on the part of Dr. John E. Mack was in violation of the standards of conduct expected of a member of Harvard Univ." —Harvard Faculty Committee, chaired by Dr. Arnold Reiman, former editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine* and recent appointee to the Mass. State Board of Medical Examiners; reported on the internet and by *La MUFON* (Louisiana), *Colorado MUFON News*, and Phil Klass' *Skeptics UFO Newsletter*

Good Book Alert!

"Sometime next summer, I will be bringing out a book called *Breakthrough* that contains proof that the visitors are real. They devised their proof with considerable cunning over a period of years, and it will not be possible to refute, only to deny."

—Whitley Strieber, in an open letter, "CNI News" ♦

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This just in... Rumor has it the GAO has unearthed evidence that the MJ-12 documents are genuine and will confirm that MJ-12 does exist. Seems the CIA has turned over numerous documents to the GAO for their Roswell inquiry....

Heard any rumors? Pass them on via snail- or e-mail to houstonsky@aol.com. ♦

UFO Notebook

by Bill Eatwell

In the last issue of *Houston Sky*, I presented the credentials of the late Paul R. Hill who, after retiring in 1970 from NASA, began compiling and formulating his theory on UFO propulsion. His unpublished document, still in draft form, was made available to the public in 1993 by his daughter, Julie Hill. His work is a scientific analysis of UFO propulsion that includes extensive mathematics in support of his theories. The title of the work is *A Scientific Analysis of Unconventional Flying Objects*. The following is a discussion of Hill's analysis of several popular propulsion theories.

In the introductory sections of the work, several pages are devoted to cataloging and describing well-known and widely documented UFO characteristics, including craft shape and size; night and daytime colors; halos; physical actions of the UFO such as landing gear deployment, maneuvers, and speed of the UFO; sounds; and ground traces such as rings and nests (crop circle types). But to Hill, the most important recorded patterns were those describing the "invisible forces" supporting his theory that a "force field" of some means was the UFO's propulsion method.

Major influences on Paul Hill's theories were numerous key witness accounts, two personal sightings, and the Geiger counter reading of a close encounter reportedly made by APRO Field Investigator Bill Rogers and reported in the Jan./Feb. '73 *APRO Bulletin*. Hill deduced from the Geiger counter

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Secrecy

"The Engines of Our Ingenuity"

by John H. Lienhard, PhD

The following essay, "Secrecy," is from National Public Radio's "Engines of Our Ingenuity," heard twice daily in Houston on KUHF 88.7 FM, at 7:35 AM and 3:55 PM. Writer-narrator Dr. John Lienhard holds professorships at the University of Houston in both mechanical engineering and history. "Engines of Our Ingenuity" first aired in January 1988; as of March 1995, 1,013 episodes have been played. "Secrecy" is reprinted with Dr. Lienhard's permission.

Today, we let freedom trickle through our fingers. The University of Houston's College of Engineering presents this series about the machines that make our civilization run, and the people whose ingenuity created them.

I first heard Glenn Seaborg talk at the University of Washington in 1952. He'd won the Noble Prize in chemistry the year before. He was only 40. A few years later, when I studied at Berkeley, he was the chancellor there.

All the while, his team discovered new elements—berkelium, californium, americium. He worked his way through the American atlas and then through the gallery of scientific history—einsteinium, fermium, mendelevium, and (why not!) nobelium.

In 1961, JFK named Seaborg head of the Atomic Energy Commission—the AEC. He served for 10 years. Now, just past his 82nd birthday, he tells a chilling tale: He'd kept a diary since his teens. When he left the AEC, he asked the security people to clear the relevant parts. They went through it, deleted an item or two, and said, "Take it with you." Since it wasn't classified, they gave no written clearance. Seaborg made one copy.

In 1983, the AEC historian asked to borrow the copy. He was writing the history of Seaborg's term. Seaborg said, "Sure. Just get it back to me in three weeks." The historian agreed.

Then the fun began. Three weeks passed, no diary. Three months—a year and a half. No diary, no explanation. The government finally told him his diary had secret material in it. When they told him to hand over the other copy, Seaborg objected. They compromised. Security

people came to his house to sanitize the diary.

They made 162 deletions. Then Seaborg learned that other security people had made twice as many deletions in the copy, and they had held out another 530 items for further consideration.

The two sets of excisions weren't even consistent with each other, but now the security people had the bit in their teeth. Next they ordered Seaborg's copy removed to Livermore Lab where a team could go over it. This time some 10 people worked on it for weeks. They returned it with a thousand items removed.

The excised material included things Seaborg had published in books—stuff that was public in many other forms as well. And Seaborg asks: How could an organization that began with an enlightened sense of public openness have come to this? He believes that we let a blind bureaucratic notion of security grow up in government, quietly and mindlessly, during the 1980s.

There's a moral fable for us in this. For this is how we let our freedoms die—quietly and unnoticed. Today, the government assures Seaborg that they hold one clean copy of the entire document. But they hold it in secret. He might yet live to see historians using his carefully kept records. But that is, by now—unlikely.

I'm John Lienhard at the University of Houston, where we're interested in the way inventive minds work.

(Seaborg, *GT*, "Secrecy Runs Amok," *Science*, Vol. 264, 6/3/94, pp. 1410-1411, with additional comments from Dr. Seaborg) ♦

Excuse Me?!

Mr. Shapiro: Your honor, I would request an offer of proof as to relevance as to any conversations O.J. had with her... I have called this lady and asked to talk to her, and she refused to talk to us.

Mr. Darden: You just never really know what you are going to get from Mrs. C.

Mr. Cochran: It might be helpful if you talked to her.

Mr. Darden: I have, but I believe she is going to testify that—

Mr. Cochran: —she is an alien from another planet. ♦

"Sightings" Program Not Leaving the Air!

In the last issue of *Houston Sky*, we reported that *Sightings*' days were numbered. We are very happy to say that that announcement was a mistake. *Sightings*' research director, Jonathan Jerald, called personally to set the record straight. The program, recently rated by Nielsen as the "number one new syndicated one-hour series on national TV" (syndicated to more than 182 stations), has been renewed by Paramount Domestic Television (of Viacom, Inc.) for a second year.

Responding to reviewer David Mayo's comment that the program "covers too many topics within the allotted hour, diluting segments that deserve further attention," Mr. Jerald said the program's producers are "striving for tighter research." If the February 18 (midnight in Houston!) segment about National Guard pilot Thomas Mantell was any indication, then we are in for an interesting year. Not only did *Sightings* recover numerous pieces of Mantell's downed plane—complete

with the serial number—they also filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for the release of all documents related to the case. The segment ended with a promise delivered by host Tim White for updates on the FOIA request.

Good shows coming up soon:

April 22/23: Is the US government conducting UFO investigations and denying it? What really crashed at Roswell? The episode features a debate between Karl Pflock and Stanton Freedman—could be very interesting.

April 29/30: Jim and Jack Weiner will share details of their Allagash abduction in a special two-part segment.

Those of us in Houston might benefit by a mass call-in to the local station (KTXH-TV, Channel 20) to request that the program be moved to a more reasonable time slot. **Their number is 661-2020.** Until such a change, I recommend that you program your VCR for the midnight hour. ♦

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reading and statements from radiation experts involved in radiation sickness cases caused by UFOs that the radiation output was in the x-ray or gamma-ray energy range or higher.

Hill believed that the glow and colors given off by a UFO are the results of ionization by the surrounding atmosphere, which eliminated microwave propulsion since experiments in laboratories had shown that air ionization by microwaves was not possible at sea level pressures. If the vehicle emitted microwaves, "it would be one of the easiest objects in the world to track, not one of the hardest," according to Hill.

Since UFOs must be propelled by a force, or in engineering terms, thrust, a discussion of the way forces are transmitted helps in the understanding of Hill's analysis. He wrote that it was obvious that UFOs do not use a mechanical action such as thrust with a propeller. Jet propulsion was out since "no visible means of locomotion or propulsion (jet blast) was evident in the many witness accounts. Also, the accelerations witnessed were too high to be accounted for by any (known) aerodynamic principle."

Rocket exhaust, photon, or some other high-heat particle ejection was not witnessed. Photon rocket propulsion, an intense photon beam type of particle ejection, was unsuitable for near-earth operations and speeds, according to Hill.

Numerous problems exist with this type of propulsion. For one, the energy output of a photon beam just for lift-off would have to be

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Behind the Scenes at "Sightings" with Jonathan Jerald

by Vince Johnson

The following is Part I of an interview with "Sightings" research director Jonathan Jerald. Vince Johnson, former editor of the *HUFON Report* and the *C.E. Chronicles*, was the lucky guy to make the call. Thanks to both for making this piece possible! (Because of space limitations, we'll be bringing you segments of the interview in this and the next several issues.)

VJ: Can you give us a preview of the upcoming "Sightings" episodes?

JJ: There are going to be two exciting features involving UFOs: "What's Inside Hangar 18?" is about the history of the rumors that have grown up around Hangar 18—why there has been so much attention drawn to it, what the Air Force is denying, what people have been talking about, the tunnels under the area, whether they've been evaluating alien technology on the premises.

The other, "Saucers Are Real," looks at a surprising number of saucer projects developed, even by the navy. We weren't able to use this [navy story] because we couldn't get enough information, but I did verify that the

navy developed a 400-foot saucer-shaped craft that was really a giant hovercraft. It would have been powered by a nuclear engine, which is intriguing, and would have skimmed the ocean to deliver all sorts of men and material. Also, the army was definitely developing saucers that would have had the same missions that troop-carrying helicopters have—fly in fast and low, dump off a bunch of guys, fire weapons, take off, get out of there, and fly at the same heights and high speeds as conventional aircraft. We have physical evidence of all those things. That's fun!

[We'll be divulging more "Sightings" scoop in upcoming issues of Houston Sky.] ♦

Wishful Thinking?

MUFON's Assistant Director Tom Deuley wrote *Houston Sky* on March 1 to amend Michael Lindemann's statement that one million dollars had been made available for UFO research by the Bigelow Foundation: "We have not become suddenly rich. What has happened is that at the end of several sets of discussion, major donors have agreed to assist MUFON,

CUFOS, and FUFOR in supporting specific projects that the three UFO groups unanimously agree are worthwhile... As we go into the future, and as we find worthy projects to support, we may well total a million dollars someday. The hope would be that as we find success, we will also find additional contributions to the cause." ♦

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2,000 times greater than the jet energy of a Saturn-class rocket with a thrust of six million pounds. The heat output of the Saturn requires many tons of water on the concrete deflectors to keep them from being destroyed by the rocket blast. By Hill's calculations, a photon rocket, Saturn class, would output enough energy to vaporize 118,000 tons of water per second.

Also eliminated early in Hill's analysis was propulsion by ejection of high-energy charged particles such as millions of electron volts similar to that supplied by a Van de Graff electrostatic generator. Research had shown that the high-voltage stream could cut an aircraft to shreds. Nevertheless, numerous articles and books on the subject of electrostatic propulsion exist. For example, the research work of T. Townsend Brown on electrostatics and "electrogravitic propulsion" was on-going during the period of Paul Hill's research and is still being investigated today.

That left only force fields such as electric, magnetic, gravitational, and repulsive force fields, of which two possibilities existed: 1) a field *not* anti-gravitational and as yet undiscovered, or 2) a negative gravity field. Paul Hill hypothesized that a force-field emission of some type was the means by which trees were bent, automobiles bounced around, and people were stopped or knocked to the ground whenever a UFO passed near by.

Next: Why the "repulsive force field" is the only answer to UFO propulsion. ♦

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and whether the memories recovered were actually suppressed or merely forgotten. Suffice it to say that opinions on these issues vary as widely as those on the overall debate.

For a thorough overview of the recovered memory controversy (from a slightly right-of-center—FMSF—perspective), including landmark cases, legal issues, memory theory, hypnotic regression, a literature review, therapy accounts, and implications for professionals, read Elizabeth Loftus' "The Reality of Repressed Memories," in the May 1993 issue of *American Psychologist* [518-537]. Dr. Loftus, a well-known cognitive psychologist, is on the professional advisory board of the FMSF and is professor of psychology and adjunct professor of law at the University of Washington in Seattle. Admittedly more open minded than many others on the board, she says, "I don't think we need to be so wedded to the idea that all repressed memories are false, or that repression cannot be a mechanism by which someone might cope with trauma... It might happen on rare occasions, but if it happens once, it is in some sense, an existence of proof" ["Memory and Reality: Emerging Crisis," 1993 video promotional flyer].

Implications for UFO Researchers

Today, thanks in part to the crusading persistence of the FMSF, psychotherapists face an irrevocably altered practice environment—already, the FMSF claims to be tracking more than 800 lawsuits related to false (or recovered) memories ["Frequently Asked Questions," FMSF, 10/94, 8].

How does this litigious atmosphere threaten the UFO community, in which the accused—a grey or other alien life form—seems quite unlikely to seek punitive damages?

Less than a year ago, in June 1994, the father of a California patient sued his daughter's therapists for malpractice—in the first case in which a third party was allowed to bring suit against a therapist—and the therapists were found guilty. The FMSF claims that of those who reportedly have retracted their accusations, between 60 and 70 percent have filed lawsuits, many for malpractice *against their therapist* for creating false memories, giving substandard care, therapeutic negligence, and fraud ["Frequently Asked Questions," FMSF, 10/94, 8].

Alluding to these risks, AMA writer Paul Cotton warns, "Clinicians who have uncovered what they believe to be repressed memories of abuse are facing a flood of litigation from people named as abusers" [*JAMA*, 12/14/94, 1725].

Dr. Gotlib foresaw this situation in 1993, when he warned that false memory syndrome was "like a locomotive coming down the track, straight at us." The UFO community could, he said, take an adversarial role in opposing the

FMS Foundation and its "prestigious, articulate, and knowledgeable" advisory board members, or we could "use the knowledge and insight provided to encourage a constructive dialogue and improve our work" [*MUFON J.* 7/93, 14].

A Changing Legal Environment

A constructive dialogue between the antagonists, however, does not seem to be a goal of the FMSF, which believes instead that "legislative initiatives" are what is needed "to bring a field that has exploded without structure [memory therapy] into an orderly system."

Even now, these initiatives are being introduced as part of the FMSF's legislative campaign. According to both the Society for the Investigation, Treatment and Prevention of Ritual and Cult Abuse (Cult Abuse Society) and the Austin, Texas, Study Group for Trauma and Dissociation, the FMSF is preparing to "blitz" the legislatures of several states with bills to "legalize and encourage third-party lawsuits against therapists." At present, this "Mental Health Consumer Protection Act," as it is called, is being considered in two state legislatures, New Hampshire and Illinois [APA news release, 3/1/95]. The Texas legislature was targeted as well, though the bill died in Austin before it was formally introduced [personal communication, Austin Study Group for Trauma and Dissociation, 3/31/95]. The act is reportedly worded so that it appears to protect the consumer, but at closer look seems to say that "anyone mentioned by a patient or client during the course of therapy can sue the therapist, claiming that he or she has been harmed" [Winter 94/95 Newsletter of the Cult Abuse Society]. Also mentioned are references to "permitting third-party [family] lawsuits against therapists "who engage in willful and reckless acts such as memory retrieval therapy" and "criminalizing fraudulent practices such as the willful or reckless induction of false accusations of abuse."

On March 1, 1995, the APA passed a resolution opposing this Mental Health Consumer Protection Act, calling it "a detriment to the delivery of mental health services." The resolution emphasized that consumers are already protected by strict professional- and state-licensing requirements and that the act would "create a bureaucracy and unnecessary barriers that would interfere with consumer access to mental health services" [APA news release].

As threatening as this legislation sounds, in Texas, another law already in place promises to alter the practice of psychotherapy, hypnotherapy, and, at least indirectly, alien abduction investigations. The new regulatory law *restricts the practice of hypnotherapy (when "compensation" is asked) to state-licensed psychologists*. See *Investigations*, page 7

MUFON-Houston Update

MUFON-Houston "graduated" its first-ever investigations training class on April Fool's Day (no kidding), and sent 18 participants on their way with MUFON's take-home certification test. Many thanks to Kristy Jones for teaching the class and to all the enthusiastic participants for making it fun—Claudia Arnold, Kattie Bazar, Steve Clappart, Bill Eatwell, David Geaslin, Leah Hoyt, Jeff James, Gretchen Jones, Diana Klahn, Patricia

Klahn, Karen Moon, Gayle Nesom, Jorge Rivera, Vito Saccheri, Rebecca Schatte, Steve Shaw, Ronny Wach, and Charles Woolford. Good luck on the test!

We'll be having a second class but not until fall. Watch *Houston Sky* for dates.

Stay tuned also for a flyer announcing the second MUFON-Houston get-together, probably sometime in May. ♦

Investigations, from page 6

gists. Passed just last year (1994), the "Psychologists' Certification and Licensing Act" defines "psychologist" as anyone representing himself with the words *psychological*, *psychologists*, or *psychology*, or offering *psychological services*, including "projective techniques, neuropsychological testing, counseling, career counseling, psychotherapy, hypnosis for health care purposes, *hypnotherapy*, and biofeedback, and the evaluation and treatment by psychological techniques and procedures of mental or emotional disorders and disabilities."

Because of the law's inherent vagueness, the Texas Mental Health Association requested a ruling by the Texas Office of the Attorney General on "whether a person who practices psychotherapy, hypnosis for health care purposes, hypnotherapy, or biofeedback without a license to practice psychology in Texas" is violating the act. The TMHA also asked for clarification of the requirement making it a violation of the act to "represent oneself as a psychologist" without holding a license and to "engage in the practice of psychology" without a license. Attorney General Dan Morales' response, Opinion No. DM-321, handed down on February 8, 1995, is summarized as follows:

"A person who, for compensation, practices psychotherapy, hypnosis for health care purposes, hypnotherapy, or biofeedback without a license under the Psychologists Certification and Licensing Act, V.T.C.S. article 4512c, violates that act unless such practice falls within one of the exceptions [physicians and other licensed professionals if their license permits these practices] set out in the act. The act authorizes the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to take action to enjoin such violations, as well as other actions against violators authorized by law."

This law seems to apply only to those who charge for their services—however "compensation" is ultimately defined—and to those who describe themselves using the term "psychologist." Though it is too early to know how vigorously the law will be enforced, it appears that nonlicensed individuals performing

hypnosis for smoking cessation, weight loss, past-life regression, *alien abduction regression*, and such—if they charge for their services—will be barred by law from the practice. If the intent of the law is to protect the consumer from incompetent and unethical therapists, it would seem only a matter of time before similar legislation is enacted for *nonlicensed* individuals working with possible trauma victims (abductees), even when they do not charge.

In the Jan./Feb. '95 *International UFO Reporter* [p. 6], British UFO researcher Jenny Randles reported that because of the risks involved with hypnosis [when trauma was suspected], she had "persuaded British investigators to adopt a moratorium in 1988," which she says "effectively banned [the use of hypnosis] during British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) investigations." Because of these risks and the added risks to investigators, MUFON-Houston will also avoid hypnosis.

Taking Stock

This deepening quagmire of litigation and legislation will undoubtedly affect the UFO community more as time goes on. Already, Dr. Mack faces possible censure from his colleagues (*Is it coincidence that three Harvard psychiatrists are on the Advisory Board of the FMSF, which attacked Dr. Mack in their December '92 newsletter?*), at least one mental health professional in Houston has declined to participate in abduction research on the basis of the current climate, and others insist on anonymity.

Now is the time—before state-licensing boards and legislators turn their attention to the UFO world—for ufology's legal and health professionals to establish standards and safeguards to protect professional and lay UFO investigators. Otherwise, before we know it, The Law may come knocking at our front door.

In Part 2, "Taking Precautions," I will look at the guidelines already in place for MUFON investigators (Code of Ethics, etc.) and suggest safeguards. A bibliography will be included. ♦

HOUSTON SKY

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Media Report Card (Part 2)

by David Mayo

Television reports what it sees and hears. While seeing can be believing, hearing definitely isn't. As a ratings push, UFOs are invaluable; as a subject for building credibility, UFOs are poison. This is why the topic is handled only by talk shows, magazine shows, and special-interest programs.

According to one of the two transcript services covering TV shows, there were 26 UFO-related programs within a five-year period. This breaks down as two in 1990, four in 1991, seven in 1992, four in 1993, and nine in 1994. The hot topic in 1992 was the miniseries *Intruders*. In 1993, it was the movie *Fire in the Sky*. Last year—1994—was John Mack's year for publicity. Obviously, sensational movies and miniseries propagate their own PR.

Some sleazier journalistic entries like *A Current Affair*, *Inside Edition*, and *Hard Copy* have aired UFO segments for their sensationalistic worth. Still, sometimes one of these shows jumps in with an exclusive, such as *Hard Copy*'s footage of the NASA STS-48 anomalies.

Even the burgeoning talk show circuit occasionally covers UFOs. Oprah Winfrey loves the spiritual-paranormal subjects but seems to forego UFOs. Maury Povich is skeptical and has too much fun with the subject. Montel Williams, with a military background, is doubtful and snide. He traveled to Area 51 but unfortunately saw nothing. Jenny Jones has covered alien abductions a handful of times in a giggly manner. Larry King seems sincerely interested in UFOs and in the past has covered STS-48, Area 51, Gulf Breeze, Travis Walton, the

Belgium sightings, and Whitley Strieber.

Cable television currently has a few gems. Arthur C. Clark's *Mysterious World* and the new *Mysterious Universe* cover an endless number of strange phenomena colored by Mr. Clark's skepticism. Occasionally, the Discovery Channel and the Learning Channel will run a special on crop circles, ancient astronauts, and the like. The SciFi Channel has aired short programs on how to observe and photograph UFOs.

That facts and truth are not the same has become increasingly obvious. Perceived truth is established by the number of individuals who believe specific information. In ufology, an author with an opinion can publish a book that prompts appearances on TV and radio, and reprints in countless periodicals. Some readers will embrace and advance the author's opinions through networking, local clubs, conventions, and BBSs. Other UFO authorities with differing views will attack the new book. The ensuing controversy nourishes its popularity. The end result will be a significant number who will have augmented their belief systems to accommodate this new truth and an equal number who will spend time, money, and effort trying to debunk this new interloper. And so, from the mind of one individual mainlined into the collective consciousness, this new truth will have successfully undercut, diminished, and misdirected the study of UFOs. Opinions are not validated just because they are in print.

Unfortunately, the media's role in all this is often detrimental to ufology. Yet, there are truths—real facts—that come to us through the same conduit. As "Deep Throat" stated to Agent Mulder in an *X-Files* episode prior to his untimely death, "Sometimes the truth is best served up between two lies." Aye, there's the rub. ♦

Of Interest

Houston Area

HUFON (Houston UFO Network)

First Friday of the Month, 7:30 PM
Call (713) 597-2834 for location.

VISIT (Vehicle Internal Systems Investigative Team)

Mon., April 10 & Thurs., May 18
Freeman Memorial Library
16602 Diana Lane, Clear Lake City

Elsewhere

1995 Ozarks UFO Conference

April 7, 8, 9
Eureka Springs, Arkansas
Speakers: Linda Howe, Antonio Huneus, George Wingfield, Forest Crawford, Michael Zimmerman
Contact: Lucius Farish
Information: Call (501) 354-2558.

MUFON 1995 UFO Symposium

"Ufology: A Scientific Paradigm"
July 7-9, Seattle, Washington
\$55 registration to Marilyn Childs,
PO Box 1012, Bothell, WA 98041
Red Lion Hotel: Make reservations early, and ask for the MUFON rates:
(206) 246-8600.

MUFON UFO Hotline (800) UFO-2166

"Zealous conviction is a dangerous substitute for an open mind."

—Elizabeth Loftus, PhD,
Psychologist

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